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useful to mankind, yet I am not indifferent or insensible to the approbation or applause of those who take a lively interest in the well-being of their fellow creatures.

I am, &c. SAMUEL ROMILLY.  
*Thomas Foster, esq. Bromley Hall,  
 near Bow, Middlesex.*

#### BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION.

To make our readers more fully acquainted with the present state of the Academical Institution in this town, we give the following interesting papers on that subject. Sensible of the importance of education to all ranks, and ardently desirous that effectual measures might be taken to promote its benefits, we call the attention of our readers to the important subject, and with most hearty good will to the proposed Institution, we venture to express our wish, that in no part of the buildings or management, substantial use may be sacrificed to show; or that to gain patronage or additional aids, the important interests of an independent institution may not be bartered at the shrine of power.

The Visitors, having summoned a general meeting of the Proprietors of the ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION, to take into their consideration a question which appears to them of vital importance to the success, and even the existence of their attempt to improve the state of Education in this part of the Kingdom, think it necessary to lay before them the following documents, in order that they may have the necessary information for coming to a decision.

The management of the affairs of the Institution had been vested in the Board of Managers, by a general meeting of Proprietors, held on the 4th of February, 1808, with instructions to proceed according to the recommendation of the Committee, with whom the plan was first digested and acted upon, by increasing the subscriptions, and making the necessary preparations for opening schools and delivering courses of Lectures. For some time it was doubtful whether the latter of these objects could be best effected by making a commencement in temporary buildings, or postponing it until suitable buildings should be erected. The latter of these was preferred by the concurrent decisions of several general meetings, and nothing now remained but to carry the wishes of the proprietors into effect, by increasing the subscriptions, and making

the necessary arrangements for building. The total of the subscriptions at this time amounted to upwards of £15,000, and it appeared from the instructions given to the Architect chosen to draw a plan for the buildings, that £10,000 was to be laid out in their erection, leaving a remainder of £5000 for all the other purposes of the Institution. In this arrangement the Board of Visitors acquiesced for some time under the idea that the Managers, seeing how inadequate such a portion of the funds would be to create, what must be called the soul of a literary institution, (the endowment of Professors and Teachers, the purchase and formation of a Botanical Garden, the furnishing of a Library, and the providing apparatus for the several professors) would see the necessity of exerting themselves in increasing the funds. At length, however, fearing, from the inactivity of the Managers, that these observations had escaped their notice, they thought it necessary on the 5th of September, 1808, to send them the following message...

"It is proposed to the Board of Managers, that for getting in the instalments already due, and collecting additional subscriptions, a Committee be appointed at every weekly meeting of the Managers, consisting of two persons who shall be required to use their endeavours for this purpose during the interval, and report at the next weekly board. To obviate any objections that may be urged against them...the Collectors, in performing this duty, they shall be furnished with a short and perspicuous statement of the Institution, its funds, the views entertained respecting it, and the sum necessary to give it full effect; suppose £10,000 for buildings, and £20,000 for professorships, &c. and candidly informing individuals that without their co-operation, this great national undertaking must even now fall, or degenerate into a common school, and become a reproach to the country."

An answer was sent, intimating, that such a committee as had been recommended was appointed; "but that the Managers thought it imprudent to press the collection of new subscriptions through the country, until some progress has been made in the buildings; that this was delayed for want of a plan, but that every exertion in their power was made to forward it."

On perceiving from this answer that no means were to be adopted to increase the fund necessary for establishing the Institution, while the greater part of that already in hands, was still intended to be appropriated to the buildings, seeing also that some part of the small portion not appropriated to the buildings (amounting to nearly £1000) had been expended in inclosing the ground, they thought it necessary again to remind the Managers of the impolicy of dissipating the funds in buildings, and of depending on future contingencies for procuring the means of its becoming effectual, and therefore on the 13th of October, 1808, they sent them the following message....

"The Board of Visitors having devoted great attention to discover the best means of rescuing the Institution from any unfavourable conclusions which the public may be inclined to draw from its present state of inactivity, as the result of their inquiries, earnestly represent to the Managers the necessity of appropriating a certain sum to be applied solely to the Literary department. They are of opinion that £10,000 should be set apart for this purpose, as being the smallest sum which can enable it to answer the ends for which it was formed. If the Managers acquiesce in this measure, the Visitors will then endeavour to arrange a plan which may be acted upon at the beginning of the ensuing winter at farthest, and which may by that time have sufficient publicity to enable our countrymen to avail themselves of its advantages.

"Should the Managers agree to the specific disposition of the sum now mentioned, which can be considered adequate only to the commencement of our design, they will perceive the urgency of recurring to such measures as marked the early days of the Institution, in order to provide a sum sufficient not only to complete the body, or mere external part, but also progressively to increase its usefulness, by extending the plan and facilitating the acquirement of a literary education.

The only notice taken of this message by the Managers, was the following Resolution on their books, of the 3d of November, 1808....

"Resolved, That the Managers are of opinion, that the appropriation of any part of the funds for any of the purposes mentioned in the communication of the

Visitors, of the 13th inst. is at present premature."

On the 8th of November, the Visitors sent the following message to the Managers....

"The Visitors having seen on the Managers book, what they suppose was intended as an answer to their late message, cannot avoid expressing their disappointment on seeing so brief and unsatisfactory a reply made to their note. The Managers must be sensible, that in acting as they have done, the Visitors have exercised a right vested in them by the fundamental laws of the Institution, which declare that they shall have authority to inspect at all times every department of the Institution.

Desirous, therefore, that the measure recommended by them in their last notice, should originate with the Board of Managers, rather than with the general Court of Proprietors, to which, in case of any avowed difference of opinion, it must ultimately be referred, and whose sentiments they are sensible, are perfectly conformable to their own, the Visitors trust that the Managers will reconsider the subject, and either unite with them in putting the measure into effect, or else explain in detail the arguments which may have had such influence on their determination."

To this message the following answer was given on the 11th of November....

"The Managers of the Academical Institution acknowledge, in the fullest extent, the authority of the Visitors to inspect at all times every department of the Institution, and will be much gratified by the sentiments of the Visitors on any point connected with the great object in view. At the same time, they feel it to be their bounden duty to exercise their own judgment on every department of the Institution, and also on every communication with which they may be favoured by the Visitors. The appropriation of the sum of £10,000 to the purposes mentioned in the communication of the Visitors, or of any specific sum for those purposes, the Managers deem premature. The amount of the funds of the Institution are not yet ascertained; neither the sum necessary for the buildings. Besides, the Prospectus directs, that should circumstances arise which may delay the founding the number of Lectureships at first intended, a fewer number are to be adopted, thereby pointing

out to the Managers, the necessity of attending to the funds of the Institution in fixing the number of Professors.

The Board of Visitors on receiving the above answer, came to the resolution "that in consequence of their ignorance of the amount of the fund to be set apart for the literary department, the Visitors cannot draw up any detailed plan of the course of studies to be adopted; and that they do not think it necessary to meet oftener than once a month, until they shall have been provided with the information necessary to regulate their proceedings on this subject."

In this state the affairs of the Institution remained till after the passing of the bye-laws, under the act of incorporation, by a general meeting held on the 6th of November, 1810. On the 29th of the same month, the Visitors thought it necessary to lay before the Managers a full and explicit statement of their opinion of the present state of the Institution, and of the steps which appeared to them necessary to be pursued, in order to attain the end desired by the Proprietors, who had entrusted them with the management and inspection of their affairs. To this end they sent them the following.....MESSAGE...

"On entering upon the exercise of our office, as Visitors, we mean to give you our sentiments on the present state of the Academical Institution; satisfied, that both boards are alike zealous to complete an undertaking so connected with the true interests of this town and country, and trusting that if we agree, our mutual object will be more speedily forwarded; and if we differ, no harm can result from this *private communication*.

"The questions which claim our attention at present, are, in what way is it best to expend the money we at present possess; and by what means are we to get more to spend?

"It is, perhaps, fortunate, in one respect, that you have not advanced further in the work, as you will not have been hurried into an expenditure upon the building, wholly incompatible with the real purposes of the Institution. It is certainly an object very desirable, but still we think an object of secondary importance, to have an edifice raised, both ornamental to the town, and convenient, in all respects, for the accommodation of masters and students, in all the departments of science, proposed by this Board

to be taught in it. Such a building, no doubt, will be beneficial to the town, will form a fine termination to a street, and will probably raise the ground rents, and rents of houses in that quarter; but all this will, we think, depend upon a proviso, viz. of having a prospect of furnishing the house with masters whose abilities and reputation will attract a number of scholars. Now, men of such character, we insist upon it, can only be had, we may say purchased, in the literary market, by endowments suitable to a laborious, though dignified, and highly responsible station.

"The fees of students will, no doubt, in time, relieve you in part, from the appropriation of your funds to such salaries and endowments, as will, at first, be absolutely necessary to fill your lectureships, or even your elementary schools with proper instructors, and to tempt them from previous settlements, to take part in an undertaking, where, though the prospect may be flattering, the success is problematical. We think it, then, our duty to inform you, that if you suffer the whole, or nearly the whole of your present funds to be expended, or as we should rather say, dissipated in a pile of brick and mortar, however handsome, or even convenient for the purposes intended; in thus making rooms, without any effort to fill them either with masters or scholars, you will be somewhat in the same predicament of the architect, who built a high house, but forgot the place for the stairs. When Mr. Fox (then a young man) invited his friends to a new and elegant house of his in the country, and they were admiring the beauties of the prospect, all very beautiful, said Charles, but where is the prospect of paying the rent? And it might be said of such a naked building as may be raised with the whole of your present funds, that all was convenient and well-contrived; but where is the academy? only in the prospectus. Two or three men of eminent talent would contribute more to the success of your establishment, much more indeed, than were your whole plan of building with fine front and double squares, to rise from the ground, like an exhalation, without any expense whatever. What shabby rooms had the elder Monro, and Cullen, and Black to lecture in, but they were crowded rooms: these men made that university. The new college of Ex-

dinburgh is left in an unfinished state, with many thousands mispent upon it, and it may be questioned whether were it completed, the number of students would be much increased, though they might have superior accommodations. A Boerhaave and a Gaubius were sufficient to make a swamp in Holland the resort of students from all parts of the world. A Hucheson, a Reid, and a Smith rendered Glasgow as famous in another branch of literature. Such men are the only magnets that can draw scholars sufficient to make an academy; but to make such men, there must either be an adequate provision from the fees of students, which in the present case is out of the question; or, there must be an adequate portion of our funds allotted to the endowment and salaries of men fully qualified for their offices, until the time arrive, when a course of students may supply a portion of the annual income, and yield the best incitement to the industry of teachers.

"We, therefore, think it incumbent on the Managers, to get as soon as possible, an exact calculation, subscribed by a credible and capable architect, of the expense necessary to complete the part of the building already undertaken. It has been said that this part alone will exhaust the whole of the money at present subscribed, and if this be the case, we think, that before the funds are so dissipated, you should enter into some resolution as a record on your books, and a pledge of your intention with regard to the salaries of teachers, and endowment of lectures.—Whether it be your intention, after beginning where other people end, by a wall\* of inclosure, which however, serves no one purpose of inclosure, and after having finished two handsome dwelling houses, and several large rooms, whether it be your design to let them out for hire to any schoolmasters who may offer, or, whether now, that there is time for it, to pledge yourselves that a certain portion of whatever funds you have or may possess (say one half or one third) shall be faithfully applied to attract, and to secure proper teachers for the Institution. In doing so, you will, assuredly, show your own foresight, and justify the public expectation. The proprietors, at large, we are satisfied, rely on this being done, and until it be done, we think the

amount of the sums already subscribed, will not be paid up, in the present uncertainty with respect to the proper mode of expending it.

"Were a proper portion of your funds, from this day, to be dedicated, the interest thereon to accumulate, for the sole purpose of forming certain and secured salaries to teachers, you might then have a proper ground for publishing, at an early day, by advertisement in the public papers, or in any other manner, such a recompence for professional talent, as might induce competent men to disengage themselves from their present pursuits and attachments, and give them the necessary time for considering on the eligibility of a removal to a yet infant institution. It must be a considerable premium that will tempt to such a precarious undertaking, men of adequate and approved abilities; for of other applicants, you will, no doubt, have abundance. But we trust to your responsibility and to your conscience, that you never will make the Academic Institution worthless from the beginning, by an early admission of inefficient and inexperienced teachers. We take this opportunity of declaring, as bound by public duty, that as far as may depend upon our choice of masters, professors, or any other officers in the Academic Institution, we shall not suffer ourselves to be influenced by personal favour, affection, or partiality, but shall give our votes, sincerely and honestly, for those who we judge are best able to discharge their respective duties, and promote the general interests of the establishment; and in making this resolution, which we design to enter on our books, we earnestly recommend to the managers, an adoption of the same solemn engagement.

"We also think that no time should be lost in writing to those distinguished persons in the several departments of science, either in the different universities, or elsewhere, to point out and recommend from their knowledge such men as they might think properly qualified for our several literary stations. The most eminent men, are, usually, the most liberal; and far from being actuated by little jealousies, or any spirit of literary monopoly, would rejoice in the opportunity of scattering the seeds of science and learning as widely as possible. Letters thus addressed to men of distinguished literary reputation convey in themselves a compliment pleasing to them, and would

\* The expense of building this wall was nearly £1000.

help to interest them in the fate and fortunes of an infant undertaking. Such men are Mr. Davy of the Royal Institution, Professor Dugald Stewart, Dr. Aikin of London, Richard Kirwan, General Vallancey, Dr. Millar, and we also think a correspondence should be entered into with the Cork Institution, endeavouring, on our parts, by candid and liberal statements to maintain the most friendly intercourse with that Institution, by whose greater experience and perhaps greater interest with men in office, we might receive pecuniary advantage as well as instruction. Be assured we stand in need of instruction and advice in many particulars.

"There is, we apprehend, much danger at present, of the Belfast Institution slipping out of the minds and memories of the public, and of its friends at a distance; and we think every practicable means ought to be taken by activity on our parts, to revive and give a fresh impulse to a zeal which was certainly once manifested pretty generally, for the formation of such a collegiate academy. To revive zeal is no very easy thing to accomplish. We think the presence of one able and experienced gentleman of literary reputation, to be for some time on the spot, might be productive of much advantage in giving advice, and particularly in communicating something of serious activity in the business, something like the activity that most of us exert for our own personal advantage. This we fear will seldom if ever be effected by stated meetings of boards, or committees of boards attended by a sort of honourable compulsion, when we have nothing better to employ ourselves about. As to the means of increasing our funds, every endeavour should be made to call the attention of the public, and revive a zeal which has lately flagged partly from our own parcimony in some things, and procrastination in others.—We think that notwithstanding the high price of timber, had a building containing only the necessary lecture-rooms and school-rooms, been carried on with spirit and activity from the time you received your plan, the loss of perhaps a thousand or two would have been amply supplied by having carried the public zeal and encouragement along with you, which has been suspended with the delay of the work, and suspended animation is as hard to revive in the public as in the individual.

There is a short-sighted, purblind economy in these matters, which misses its aim, and operates as fatally as the most thoughtless prodigality.

"You ought, we think, to obtain a full knowledge of the amount, and disposition of the sum, we believe annually granted by parliament, for the purpose of national education in Ireland. Whether it be placed solely at the disposal of the Dublin Society, how much of it has been already given to certain local institutions, such as the Cork Institution, and whether you have any claim to a part of it in your present state, or only when you become an academy in action, and not merely "in prospectu." If the latter, it should be a new reason to quicken your progress to an active establishment. Application ought to be made to the proper officers of the Dublin Society for the purpose of obtaining full knowledge on this subject.

"It would also be expedient to gain the friendship and patronage of some members of parliament of influence, and the speediest and most effectual measures ought to be taken to pre-occupy the minds of such men with impressions favourable to the Belfast Academical Institution.

"We have thus performed our duty in suggesting what we thought most advantageous to the Academical Institution, and you will perform your duty by taking these suggestions into your consideration."

29th November, 1810.

The result of this communication appeared in the following resolutions of the Board of Managers...

"That when the Superintendant shall have entered on his office, he shall be directed to make out an estimate of the expense of the intended work, to enable us to judge what sum may with propriety be expended on the buildings.

"That the Visitors be requested to correspond with such gentlemen of literary abilities as they judge proper, in order to obtain their advice and assistance, and that they would point out the probable expense attending the filling up the several Professorships.

"That a petition to the Imperial Parliament be prepared, praying pecuniary aid to the Institution.

"That on the first meeting in March a motion will be brought forward, that not more than two-thirds of the funds be appropriated to the buildings.

"That the Visitors be requested to write to the Secretary of the Dublin Society, to obtain information of the money granted to them for the purposes of education."

In compliance with the Managers' wish, the following message was immediately sent to them by the Visitors, December 12th.

"The Visitors adhering to the principles laid down in their last message, as to the mode of expending the funds, beg leave to recall the Managers' attention to that part of it, in which they require that a certain part of the funds be unalienably set apart for the support of Professors, and they hope that the Managers will be convinced of the necessity of appropriating at least one half of them to that purpose, when they take into consideration the following estimate of the expenses attending each Professorship.

"It is the opinion of this Board that an annual salary of £100, and a free house of the value of £50 per ann. will be necessary to induce a man of abilities to settle here as a Professor, and this is to be considered as exclusive of the apparatus and other expenses necessary to enable the professor to deliver a course of lectures."

"It is also the opinion of this Board, that the appointment of the following Professorships is indispensibly necessary to lead to the establishment of a literary institution, in which the education of youth can be completed.

1. Natural Philosophy.
2. Mathematics.
3. Logic, Metaphysics and Belles Lettres.
4. Moral Philosophy.

To obviate the objection which may occur to the Managers, that the appropriation of one half of the funds will so far lessen the portion necessary for carrying on the buildings as to prevent their being erected; it is suggested that the part of the building now to be raised, may be confined to the centre part of the range in Mr. Soane's plan, already adopted, viz. the part contained between the two small arches or gateways, which will contain sufficient accommodation for the departments of literature now recommended, and that the professors and masters may be accommodated with temporary residences, until our funds admit of dwelling-houses to be erected, conformably to the original plan.

\* This is to be considered as independent of the fees of Students.

No notice having been taken of this message, the Visitors thought it necessary to repeat their message, in hopes of ascertaining the reason why the Managers treated this important question with so much apparent indifference. On the 20th of December they sent the following message...

"The Visitors feel extremely disappointed at the apparent neglect with which their two last messages have been received by the Managers, as they find, on referring to the minutes of the last Board of Managers, that no part of them of immediate importance, except one, has been noticed, viz. the appropriation of some portion of the funds to the literary departments of the Institution, and that this has been deferred without any apparent cause to a distant day, while in the interim such expenses may be incurred, as to render the portion of the funds then to be appropriated so small, as to be totally inadequate to accomplish any extensive literary object. They therefore beg leave to inform the Managers, that unless they come immediately to a full and decisive resolution on this point, which is of primary importance, the Visitors will feel it their duty to lay the question before the Proprietors, and to leave the decision to their final tribunal.

"They also beg leave to inform the Managers, that they have endeavoured to investigate, as far as their means would permit, the channels by which money may be derived from the Dublin Society, and will continue so to do; but that it is impossible to proceed upon that resolution of the Managers, which directs the Visitors to write to men of literary abilities, in order to obtain their advice and assistance, until they are acquainted with the portion of the funds to be appropriated to the literary departments.

The only notice taken of this message, was the following resolution, entered on the Managers' book, Jan. 1, 1811.

Resolved, "That the Managers cannot give a decisive answer to this message, until they have received an estimate of the buildings."

Having waited ineffectually for this estimate, till the 17th of January, the Visitors came to the resolution of calling a general meeting of the Proprietors, on the 7th of February, 1811, and sent a notice of their intention to the Managers, conformably to the bye-laws. On receiving it, the Managers, for the first time, requested a

conference on the subject, with the board of Visitors; and a deputation of two members of that board in consequence attended the Managers' meeting, Jan. 29th, and laid before them the following resolution of that board...

"That it is the decided and unanimous opinion of the board of Visitors, that a specific part of the funds now in existence, and of whatever funds may hereafter accrue to the Institution, be unalienably set apart for the support of the literary departments."

In consequence of this, the Managers came to the following resolution...

"That on the next day of meeting, a motion shall be made, that not more than two-thirds of the funds be appropriated to the buildings."

On the next meeting, February the 5th, previous to the discussion of the above question, an estimate of the buildings was laid before the meeting, which stated that the expense of erecting the part of the buildings of which the foundations are now laid, would amount to £11602; and that the part of this range which was pointed out by the Visitors, in their message of the 12th December, would cost £8387—in both cases independent of locks, grates and chimneys.

At this meeting, the motion just mentioned was negatived; and the following message transmitted to the Visitors...

"The Managers inform the board of Visitors, that they have negatived the above-mentioned resolution, in consequence of having received estimates by which they find, that the expense of erecting the centre building only, will exceed the sum proposed to be set apart for the buildings."

In the mean time the Visitors perceiving that the discussion of this question was protracted from day to day, without any hopes of its being decided in the manner which they deem necessary for the welfare, and even the existence of the Institution, gave the Managers notice of their final resolution in the following message...

"The board of Visitors still adhere to the resolution stated to the Managers by their deputation, not only for the reasons declared in the several messages transmitted by them to that board, but because they think that the appropriation of a large portion of the funds for any specific purpose should be decided by the proprietors at large, and therefore persevere in their resolution of taking their opinion on the subject, trusting

that the Managers concur with them in leaving to that body, the decision of a question so important. In consequence, however, of the delay occasioned by the late conference with the managers, they have resolved to postpone the proposed general meeting, till Thursday the 21st of February. In the mean time the Visitors protest against any proceedings of the board of Managers which may tend to dissipate any part of the funds until this question shall have been decided by the general meeting of the proprietors."

Such is the state of the question now before the proprietors. It remains with them to decide what portion of the funds is to be applied to the buildings, and what to be set apart for the endowment of professorships, and for defraying the other expenses attending the several courses of lectures proposed to be commenced, or of such of them as may be thought advisable. If their decision coincides with the opinion of the Visitors, there is every reason to hope that some branches of literature will be commenced as soon as suitable buildings are prepared for them; and these buildings need by no means be expensive; if, however, they differ, and think that the whole of the funds now in existence should be spent in building, another question still remains to be agitated; how to raise a fund for the payment of those departments of literature, without which, whatever buildings they erect, will be a cause of disgrace to every one who hears the Institution named.

At a general meeting of the proprietors of the Academical Institution, held in the Exchange Rooms, pursuant to public notice, on Thursday the 21st inst.—Edward May, esq. Vice-President in the chair:

It was resolved, that a specific portion of the funds now in existence, and such as shall hereafter accrue to the Institution, shall be unalienably set apart to the payment of Professors and Teachers.

That one-fourth of the money now in the bank shall be appropriated to the payment of Professors and teachers and other literary and scientific purposes.

Mr. May having left the chair, and Mr. John Gregg having been called to it, it was unanimously resolved that the thanks of this meeting be given to Edward May, esq. for his very proper conduct in the chair.

EDWARD MAY, Vice-President.  
JOS. STEVENSON, Secretary.



SUBSCRIPTIONS for defraying the expences incurred by Mr. Finerty, in the late prosecution instituted against him in the court of King's-Bench, for a libel, received by Robert Tennent, Belfast, John Hancock, Lisburn, and James Nicholson, Newry.

	£.	s.	d.
John Hancock.....	5	-	-
Robert Tennent.....	5	-	-
W. D.....	5	-	-
William John Hancock.....	1	-	-
A female friend to Irish Patriots.....	1	2	9

#### AGRICULTURAL REPORT

*From January 20, till February 20.*

No favourable change has taken place in the state of the weather since last report. Much snow and rain have fallen, and the ground is so drenched with wet, that little or no work can be done in the fields, except on light sandy soils, so that the farmer has once more the unpleasant prospect of having to struggle with a late seed time, besides the disadvantages always resulting from a wet cold winter, which renders the land more unfit for yielding good crops, than if the season had been dry and frosty.

Those who occupy large tracts of ground, and have much tillage to perform, will be under the necessity of setting about it before the soil is in a proper state for ploughing; it may be well if they avoid hinting the furrows until the weather becomes dry, or near the time of sowing, because if heavy rains fall before it is sown, a great deal of the fine mould raised by the plough will be washed away, and either fill up the furrows at the bottom of the fields, or be carried into the ditches, whilst the unhinted furrows being solid, resist the current of the water, and will sooner dry and break up finer at the sowing season.

It is a fact well established by the experience of every intelligent farmer, that much wet is extremely injurious to land occupied in tillage, and in this humid climate, where the crops are oftener hurt by wet than dry seasons, it is particularly necessary that the farmer should attend to the laying up his land in such a manner as would most effectually carry off all superfluous moisture, during the rainy seasons, and to avoid as much as possible letting his cattle range through his fields during the winter, because their feet at that time injures the land exceedingly, by trampling it into holes, in which the water lodges, sours the soil, and unfits it for producing a crop.

#### COMMERCIAL REPORT.

The linen market in Dublin has not been good, although it turned out better than had been expected. A large quantity of goods were sold, but at reduced prices. There was no demand from the United States of North America, owing to our unsettled political relations with that country. Not a buyer attended from London, and very few from Scotland. Some goods were bought for Manchester, and to supply the north of England, and some have been made up for Spain. If the ports of America were open, we might expect a demand for fine linens from that quarter; but owing to the high prices of coarse linens with us, and the increase of American manufactures, but few of the lower descriptions are required in that country to be imported, except those they receive from Germany and Russia, and which are preferred to ours.

It is hoped that flaxseed will be on reasonable terms, and in sufficient abundance this season. Much remained from last year, and arrivals are daily taking place from America. Little importation from Riga, and other ports in the Baltic can be expected.

A letter from Liverpool gives the following dull account of trade in that great commercial mart. The many failures there, and at Manchester, have spread a general gloom, and show the depressed state of our commercial interests, the errors of overdriven speculation, and the insecurity of our paper fabric, while all these evils are increased by an exclusion from the continent.

"During the last fortnight, the demand for British Plantation Sugars, has been very dull, and the prices have declined, in the course of that period, about 2 a 3 per cwt.